

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism for fitting to a surface over a refuse container, the compacting mechanism comprising a support member for fitting to the said surface, the support member having an aperture which in use is in register with an aperture in the said surface, a compacting plate mounted under the support member, an actuating rod, and a means for coupling the compacting plate to the actuating rod such that the rod may be manoeuvred from a storage position wherein the rod lies along the support member across the said surface and the plate is drawn up under the said surface to an operative position wherein the rod stands upright over the aperture in the support member and may be pushed downwardly through the registering apertures to push the plate down into the container,

wherein the compacting plate is slidably and pivotally coupled to the actuating rod such that in the storage position of the rod the plate is coupled to the rod at a point intermediate its ends, the rod being manoeuvrable to its operative position by sliding the rod along its own axis until the coupling means reaches one end of the rod, and then rotating the rod upwardly about said one end, and wherein the support member comprises a channel member extending in use across said surface, the aperture in the support member being formed in a base of the channel and the actuating rod being located in and slidable along the channel, the base of the channel forming an underside of the support member and the support member comprising a lip extending along each longitudinal edge of the channel member.

Claims 2 and 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein the other end of the actuating rod has a handgrip.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 4 5, wherein the actuating rod comprises at least two parts which are slidable one relative to the other to adjust the length of the rod.

Claim 7 (Original): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating rod includes resilient retaining means for holding the two parts in an extended position of the rod, said resilient retaining means being overcome upon the compacting plate meeting a given resistance in use so that the one part retracts into the other to substantially cease further compaction.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 3 1, wherein the other end of the actuating rod has a handgrip.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2
1, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 4,
wherein the actuating rod is adjustable in length.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 8,
wherein the actuating rod comprises at least two parts which are slidable one relative to the
other to adjust the length of the rod.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim
12, wherein the actuating rod includes resilient retaining means for holding the two parts in an
extended position of the rod, said resilient retaining means being overcome upon the
compacting plate meeting a given resistance in use so that the one part retracts into the other
to substantially cease further compaction.

Claim 14 (New): A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
actuating rod comprises at least two parts which are slidable one relative to the other to adjust
the length of the rod.